

Policy Board

*Minutes of the Meeting of June 29, 2009
Administration Building
Conference Room A
One Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908*

MEMBERS/DESIGNEES PRESENT:

Major Michael Quinn, Chair (voting member)
Colonel Brendan P. Doherty, Rhode Island State Police (voting member)
Major Stephen M. Bannon, Rhode Island State Police
Marshal Jack Chartier, R.I. State Fire Marshal's Office (voting member)
Deputy Attorney General Jerry Coyne, representing Attorney General Patrick Lynch (voting member)
Stephen King, R.I. Supreme Court, representing Acting Chief Justice Maureen McKenna Goldberg (voting member)
Lisa Holley, Legal Counsel, R.I. Department of Public Safety
Chris Cotta, Chief-of-Staff, R.I. Department of the Attorney General
Deborah DeBare, R.I. Coalition Against Domestic Violence (voting member)
Charles Williams, R.I. Department of MHRH, representing Craig Stenning (voting member)
Jonathan Houston, Executive Director, Justice Assistance (voting member)
Dr. David Uliss, R.I. Department of Health, representing Dr. David Gifford (voting member)
Daniel Knight, Salve Regina University (voting member)
Mike Burk, R.I. DCYF, representing Patricia Martinez (voting member)
Ana Resendes, representing Carl Weinberg (voting member)
Chief George Kelley, President, R.I. Police Chiefs' Association (voting member)
John Hardiman, R.I. Public Defender (voting member)
A.T. Wall, Director, R.I. Department of Corrections (voting member)
Gina Caruolo, R.I. Department of Corrections
Magistrate Joseph Ippolito, R.I. District Court, representing
Acting Chief Justice Michael Higgins (voting member)
Edward Walsh, Ocean Tides, representing Br. Brendan Gerrity (voting member)
David Tassoni, R.I. Family Court, representing Chief Judge Jeremiah Jeremiah (voting member)
Robert O'Neil (voting member)
Barbara Laird, R.I. State Police, Recorder

PUBLIC SAFETY GRANT ADMINISTRATION OFFICE:

Thomas Mongeau, Administrative Manager
David LeDoux, Supervisor of Management Services
Joseph Persia, VOCA Grant Administrator

1. Welcome-Major Michael P. Quinn, Chair

Major Michael Quinn, Chair, welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 8:34 a.m. Introductions were made.

2. Approval of March 13, 2009 Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Walsh and seconded by Colonel Doherty to accept the minutes of the meeting of March 13, 2009. The motion passed unanimously in the affirmative.

3. Discussion/Approval of the Applications for the Byrne/JAG Funds

Mr. LeDoux explained the process that led up to voting on the proposals before the Policy Board today. The various sub-committees met, and a survey was developed. From that, a Request for Proposals was distributed. The Steering Committee named a grant review committee. The review committee met, and their recommendations were voted on by the Steering Committee at its meeting on Friday.

The first page of the hand out provides the top-rated projects from the review committee, comprised of Policy Board members. The projects that received a score of less than 65 points were not considered for funding. On Page 2 are the scores of the reviewers. The first black line depicts the initial 65-point cut. Proposals named below the second black line were not considered by Steering Committee for funding. Between stimulus and formula money there is \$2,712,889 to distribute. The 2009 formula grant monies total \$752,000. The Steering Committee asked that the Public Safety Grant Administration Office decide which programs should be funded with stimulus money, and which should be funded with formula grant money. There are different reporting requirements for the two pools of funds. The back of the second page shows how well the various programs fit into the requirements of stimulus money.

The top eight proposals minus the Attorney General's project were all ranked by the review committee to fund at the highest amount possible. The Steering Committee recommended funding the top eight at 85 percent of their budgets, but fund the Attorney General's project and the others at 80 percent.

Mr. LeDoux then directed the Board's attention to the two sheets of legal-size paper. There was \$240,382 remaining to be distributed. The Transitioning to Community project was funded at \$240,400. The MHRH Recovery Support Initiative was funded at \$100,168 from formula grant funds. MHRH had hoped they could take both grants and blend them and work both programs. They will not be able to do that because the two funding streams cannot be combined. The two programs had to be funded from different pools, and there was no other way to do it.

Mr. LeDoux further explained that the federal government provides all the stimulus funding up front. The states deposit the money into a bank account, and it immediately begins earning interest. The PSGAO received 26 proposals, and 15 were recommended for funding. The first handout is the JAG formula funds, and the second is the JAG stimulus funds. He directed the Board's attention to the summaries on the first page of the two packets. The Law Enforcement Planning Committee maintains a funding formula based on population, so each department would receive a fair share of the LEPC money. Mr. LeDoux briefly reviewed the applications.

Major Quinn suggested recessing for a moment to provide members with an opportunity to read the summary of the proposals. Mr. LeDoux stated that these recommendations were made on Friday morning by the Steering Committee and finalized by the PSGAO Friday afternoon. He apologized for the short turnaround time, but the PSGAO is committed to getting the money to the recipients as quickly as possible, and that is why the Policy Board is meeting this morning.

After a brief recess, Major Quinn called the Board back together.

Magistrate Ippolito then made a motion:

TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE STEERING COMMITTEE IN TOTAL FOR FUNDING WITH THE BYRNE STIMULUS FUNDS.

Mr. Houston seconded the motion.

In response to a question from Mr. Walsh, Mr. Burk explained that the DCYF New Hope Diner Project is for youth, who are in the Training School. Mr. Walsh asked if Ocean Tides could be included in this program. Major Quinn explained that the Steering Committee felt there was not enough money available to distribute and voted that only state agencies would be eligible to apply as sub-grantees. Mr. Walsh asked how Ocean Tides could become part of the DCYF project, and Mr. Burk suggested he contact Kevin Aucoin at DCYF. Mr. Walsh then asked about the MHRH Transitioning to Community Project. Mr. Williams explained that MHRH has several programs and facilities that they work with. With regard to clients served, they should be able to assess about 220 inmates a year and about two thirds of those will go on to some type of treatment. This grant would provide above and beyond what they are able to provide now by doubling the clients.

Major Quinn then called for a vote on the motion.

THE MOTION PASSED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE WITH NO VOTES AGAINST AND RECUSALS BY PUBLIC DEFENDER HARDIMAN, DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL COYNE, MR. KING, MR. WILLIAMS, MR. BURK, AND MR. TASSONI.

A motion was then made by Ms. DeBare:

TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE STEERING COMMITTEE IN TOTAL FOR FUNDING WITH THE BYRNE FORMULA GRANT FUNDS.

The motion was seconded by Deputy Coyne.

THE MOTION PASSED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE WITH NO VOTES AGAINST AND RECUSALS BY CHIEF KELLEY, DEPUTY COYNE, COLONEL DOHERTY, MR. O'NEIL, MR. WILLIAMS, AND MR. BURK.

Mr. LeDoux explained that the Governor is required to approve all stimulus-funded projects. In addition, the PSGAO will adhere to all federal requirements before the plans are submitted to Washington.

4. Discussion/Approval of the Violence Against Women Act:

Mr. LeDoux reviewed the requirements of the VAWA grant program and the mandated program areas that were established by the Office of Violence Against Women and the enabling legislation. The stimulus grant follows the same requirements as the formula grant. He reviewed the handout with the recommendations for funding.

For the formula grant, this is the second year of a three-year plan. He summarized the funding recommendations in the handouts. Again, much of the formulas are mandated by Office of Violence Against Women.

Mr. LeDoux reminded the Board that the stimulus funding focuses on creating and/or maintaining jobs. Many of the non-profits are also facing state cuts, so the stimulus is helping them to save these jobs. The Attorney General's Office will hire two additional prosecutors, update their computer database, and provide training.

Under the law enforcement component, Mr. LeDoux said that victim services will hire one more law enforcement advocate for the Blackstone Valley area for two years. There are also provisions for statewide coordination for the advocates and upgrades to technology. Day One will be the central repository for information from these advocates.

Mr. LeDoux reported that the Rhode Island Municipal Police Training Academy will likely have more recruits to train because there will be additional monies available through COPS grants. Providence will be holding an academy, and the State Police is currently holding an academy. VAWA trainers will provide legislatively mandated training at these academies. The Rhode Island Municipal Police Training Academy will probably be expanding, due to funding for a curriculum coordinator. There is also a possibility that the academy will be extended by several weeks.

Mr. LeDoux explained that the Court program is for data collection for the DV/SA forms.

Major Quinn asked for questions. Mr. Houston said he would like there to be funding available for batterer's programs. He said that that people enrolled in the batterer's programs at Justice Assistance are going back to Court for failure to complete their program. Director Wall said we need to pay attention to the victims, but it would be helpful if, at the federal level, there were programs funded for offenders so they are not re-offending. Attention must be paid to this behavior. Major Quinn suggested developing a statement from the Policy Board with a message to Washington via our Congressional delegation to effect this change. Ms. DeBare said she has encouraged the batterer's programs to get together and form their own coalition to lobby for funding.

A motion was then made by Mr. Houston to:

FUND THE VAWA FORMULA GRANT PROGRAM AS PRESENTED.

The motion was seconded by Director Wall.

ON A VOTE, THE MOTION PASSED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE WITH NO VOTES AGAINST, AND RECUSALS BY CHIEF KELLEY, DEPUTY COYNE, MS. DEBARE, COLONEL DOHERTY AND MR. KING.

A motion was made by Mr. Burk to:

FUND THE VAWA STIMULUS GRANT PROGRAM AS PRESENTED.

The motion was seconded by Marshal Chartier.

ON A VOTE, THE MOTION PASSED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE, WITH NO VOTES AGAINST, AND RECUSALS BY CHIEF KELLEY, DEPUTY COYNE, MS. DEBARE, MR. KING, AND COLONEL DOHERTY.

Major Quinn recognized the VAWA Planning Committee for their work developing the recommendations, as well as Director Wall for the difficult process of making the recommendations at the Steering Committee level.

Mr. Houston stated that there is currently a move to merge non-profits. He asked if a Rhode Islander could go to a 24/7 facility outside Rhode Island, utilizing state funding. Mr. Williams said that this is not possible, because funding is only provided to Rhode Island licensed programs, and the state has no jurisdiction to license outside Rhode Island. Mr. Houston then asked what could happen if a licensed Rhode Island program merged with a Massachusetts program. Mr. Williams again responded that Rhode Island dollars cannot be used outside the state. Mr. Houston said that there is merging of agencies going on, and this could be a problem, especially in northern Rhode Island. He said this may be something to consider in the future. Mr. LeDoux said he would share this information with sub-grantees.

5. Discussion of Grant Timelines and Stimulus Reporting Requirements:

Mr. LeDoux said that the reporting requirements of the stimulus grants will now also be required for the formula grants. There is a rigorous and timely reporting process required by Washington. If an agency does not meet the requirements, funding may be frozen. As the PSGAO gets additional information and possibly training, it will be passed on to the sub-grantees. Mr. LeDoux will prepare the program plans to submit to Washington. At this time it is unknown how long the approval process will take at the Governor's Office. Mr. LeDoux said he would like to have the plans sent to Washington by July 8th. Again, it is not known how long the approval process will take at that level. He would like to make the funds available to the sub-grantees as soon as possible. Under all formula and stimulus programs he will need to obtain additional information from the approved Byrne sub-grantees, including updated budgets, due to the budget cuts recommended by the Steering Committee and voted on by the Policy Board today.

Major Quinn stated that the formula grant program proposals should be a quicker turnaround time than the stimulus proposals. Mr. LeDoux said he would speak to Jamia McDonald, from the OERR Team at the Governor's Office. Whatever requirements that office has, Mr. LeDoux said he would take care of and will try to get the process completed as soon as possible. Major Quinn recommended providing the Governor's Office with the July 8th target date.

In response to a question from Director Wall, Mr. LeDoux explained that the agencies receiving the grants from the PSGAO are considered the sub-grantees. When the sub-grantees provide money to other persons or agencies, those persons and agencies are considered contractors. Mr.

LeDoux explained that it is the responsibility of the sub-grantees to ensure that the contractors follow the conditions and reporting requirements of the grant.

Director Wall said that everyone appreciates the work done by the PSGAO for completing a great deal of work in such a short timeframe and with so much at stake. He said that this is a credit to Mr. Mongeau, Mr. LeDoux, and the PSGAO that the process has moved along as quickly as it has.

6. New Business:

There was no new business.

7. Adjournment:

Major Quinn asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. DeBare moved:

TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.

Mr. Burk seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously in the affirmative. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara J. Laird
Recorder

Approved:

Thomas H. Mongeau
Administrative Manager

Approved:

Major Michael P. Quinn
Chair